

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A form for use in defining a space to receive a material, the form comprising:

a panel comprising a first end, a second end, and a first surface and a second surface extending between said first end and said second end; and

a bracket mounted to said first end, said bracket comprising a flange mounted to said panel and a tubular portion extending from said flange, said tubular portion extending from said first surface toward said second surface and terminating distal to said second surface.

2. The form as recited in claim 1, wherein said panel is fabricated from a material selected from a group consisting of a natural material, a synthetic material, a metallic material, a composite material, or a metallic alloy.

3. The form as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second bracket mounted to said second end, said second bracket having a second tubular portion extending from said second surface toward said first surface.

4. The form as recited in claim 3, wherein said tubular portion comprises at least one groove, said at least one groove cooperating with a complementary protrusion in said second tubular portion.

5. The form as recited in claim 1, wherein said tubular portion comprises a first portion comprising a first diameter and a second portion comprising a second diameter different from said first diameter.

6. The form as recited in claim 1, wherein said tubular portion receives a stake, said stake preventing movement of said bracket and said panel.

7. A form for use in defining a space to receive a material, the form comprising:

a panel comprising a first end, a second end, and a first surface and a second surface extending between said first end and said second end; and

two brackets mounted to said panel, each said bracket comprising a main body that receives said panel and a pair of flanges extending from said panel and spaced apart to receive a panel of another form, each flange having a hole to receive a stake that prevents movement of the another form relative to said two brackets.

8. The form as recited in claim 7, wherein said main body at least partially encloses said first end of said panel.

9. The form as recited in claim 7, wherein said hole is spaced apart from said first end of said panel a distance sufficient to enable the another form to be disposed between said first end of said panel and said hole.

10. The form as recited in claim 9, wherein said stake passes through said pair of flanges and prevents movement of the another form relative to said first end of said panel.

11. A system for holding poured material in a desired shape until the concrete sets, the system comprising:

a plurality of forms, each said form having a panel with a first end and a second end and two end brackets, one attached to each of said first end and said second end, each said end bracket having a tubular portion with a hole therethrough;

a plurality of stakes slidably cooperating with said plurality of forms when said hole of two adjacent forms of said plurality of forms align one with another; and

at least one bracket secured to a top of one or more of said forms to maintain a spacing between spaced apart and parallel forms of said plurality of forms.

12. The system of claim 11, further comprising at least one end member, said end member being disposed between two of said plurality of forms that are spaced apart one from another, said at least one end member maintaining a spacing between said two forms.

13. The system as recited in claim 11, further comprising at least one end member disposed between two of said plurality of forms, said at least one end member comprising:

a panel comprising a first end, a second end, and a first surface and a second surface extending between said first end and said second end; and

two bulkhead brackets mounted to said panel, each said bulkhead bracket comprising a first flange extending from said panel and a second flange extending from said panel, one of said plurality of forms being disposed between said first flange and said second flange.

14. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein said first flange and said second flange each further comprise a hole, said hole receiving one of said plurality of stakes to prevent movement of said at least one end member relative to said plurality of said forms.

15. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein at least two forms of said plurality of forms are separated one from another, with a gap therebetween.

16. The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising at least one skin panel, said at least one skin panel bridging said gap between said at least two forms of said plurality of forms.

17. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said at least one skin panel comprises a first portion separated from a second portion by an intermediate portion, said first portion and said second portion extending from said intermediate portion in the same direction and forming a channel that receives a portion of said at least two forms.

18. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said first portion and said second portion have the same length.

19. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said intermediate portion further comprises a plurality of holes, said holes being complementary to said hole in said end bracket.

20. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein one of said plurality of stakes passes through at least one of said plurality of holes in said intermediate portion and said hole in said end bracket, said stake being driven into a portion of ground to secure said system in place.

21. The system as recited in claim 11, further comprising a pair of vertical panels that hold the material in the shape against an inclined surface, each said vertical panel being fixed on a top surface of said at least one of said plurality of forms.

22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein each said vertical panel further comprises a mounting member that prevents vertical movement of said vertical panel relative to at least one of said plurality of forms.

23. A method of making a footing in a desired shape, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning a plurality of forms, each of said forms having two opposing ends, each of said ends having an end bracket attached thereto:

connecting said end brackets together using a plurality of footing stakes such that said forms maintain said shape;

bridging a gap between two adjacent forms of said plurality of forms;
and

securing at least one whaler bracket to a top of said form to maintain a spacing between said forms.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein bridging said cap further comprises aligning one or more holes in a skin panel with one or more holes in said end brackets.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising disposing at least one stake of said plurality of stakes through said one or more holes in said skin panel and said one or more holes in said end brackets.

26. The method of claim 24, further comprising locating a channel of said skin panel at least partially over a portion of two of said plurality of forms.

27. The method of claim 23, further comprising mounting at least one bulkhead form between to spaced apart forms of said plurality of forms, said at least one bulkhead form assisting in enclosing a space that is to receive concrete.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising disposing a first form of said plurality of forms between a first pair of flanges of said at least one bulkhead form and disposing a second form of said plurality of forms between a second pair of flanges of said at least one bulkhead form.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising locating a first stake of said plurality of footing stakes through holes in each flange of said first pair of flanges, said first stake preventing movement of said first form relative to said at least one bulkhead form.

30. The method of claim 29, further comprising locating a second stake of said plurality of footing stakes through holes in each flange of said second pair of flanges, said second stake preventing movement of said second form relative to said at least one bulkhead form.

31. The method of claim 23, further comprising positioning a pair of vertical footing panels atop at least two of said plurality of forms.